

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert F. Bodi (Reg. No. 48,540) on 03/16/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended): A data processing apparatus for processing media content comprised of a plurality of scenes, said apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

an input unit operable to input ~~content~~ context description data including a plurality of segments each for describing one of said plurality of scenes of media content, said ~~content~~ context description data further including:

a context attribute having a value for describing a context of said media content, and

a plurality of importance attributes each associated with one of said segments and having a value representing a degree of contextual importance of said corresponding one of said segments; and

an output unit operable to output at least one of said segments based on at least one of said importance attributes,

wherein said context description data further includes a plurality of time attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said segments for determining a start time and one of an end time or a duration of the scene associated with said corresponding segment.

38. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said plurality of segments are hierarchically described.

39. (Currently amended): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said ~~content~~ context description data includes supplemental information.

40. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the media content corresponds to video data and/or audio data.

41. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein each of said plurality of segments is provided with linkage information for linking to dominant data that represents said segment.

42. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said dominant data is one or more of text data, image data and audio data.

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43. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein a plurality of context attributes and a plurality of importance attributes are associated with one segment.

44. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said context description data is previously generated outside of said data processing apparatus prior said inputting.

45. (Previously presented): The data processing apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said output unit is operable to output in response to a user query regarding the context.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended): A data processing method, performed by a computer system, for processing media content comprised of a plurality of scenes, said method comprising:

inputting ~~content~~ context description data including a plurality of segments each for describing one of said plurality of scenes of media content, said ~~content~~ context description data including:

a context attribute having a value for describing a context of
said media content, and

a plurality of importance attributes each associated with one of
said segments and having a value representing a degree of contextual
importance of said corresponding one of said segments; and

outputting at least one of said segments based on at least one of said
importance attributes,

wherein said context description data further includes a plurality of time
attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said segments for
determining a start time and one of an end time or a duration of the scene
associated with said corresponding segment.

48. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to
claim 47, wherein said plurality of segments are hierarchically described.

49. (Currently amended): The data processing method according to claim
47, wherein said ~~content~~ context description data includes supplemental
information.

50. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to claim 47, wherein the media content corresponds to video data and/or audio data.

51. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to claim 47, wherein each of said plurality of segments is provided with linkage information for linking to dominant data that represents said segment.

52. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to claim 51, wherein said dominant data is one or more of text data, image data and audio data.

53. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to claim 47, wherein a plurality of context attributes and a plurality of importance attributes are associated with one segment.

54. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to claim 47, wherein said context description data is previously generated prior said inputting.

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55. (Previously presented): The data processing method according to claim 47, wherein said output unit is operable to output in response to a user query regarding the context.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently amended): A data processing apparatus for processing media content comprised of a plurality of scenes, said apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

input means for inputting ~~content~~ context description data describing said plurality of scenes, said ~~content~~ context description data being arranged in a hierarchy and including:

a plurality of section elements each having either one or more of said plurality of section elements as children, or having one or more of a plurality of segment elements as children;

[[a]] said plurality of segment elements each being a child of one of said section elements and also being associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of scenes;

a plurality of context attributes each being associated with one or more of said segment elements and/or section elements, each of said context ~~attributes~~ attributes having a value for describing a context of said media content and including at least one keyword for describing

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the contents of the scenes described by the associated one or more of said segment elements;

a plurality of importance attributes each associated with one of said context attributes and also associated with one of said segment elements that are associated with said one of said context attributes, and having a value representing a degree of importance of the scene associated with said one of said segment elements in relation to the context of said context attribute, and

a plurality of time attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said segments for determining a start time and one of an end time ~~and~~ or a duration of the scene associated with said corresponding segment; ~~and~~

input means for inputting said media content;

selection means for selecting one or more of said segments based on an analysis of said importance attributes; and

output means for outputting one or more of said plurality of scenes based on one or more of the selected segments.

58. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein said context description data is previously generated and stored in a database prior said inputting.

59. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein said selecting is in response to a user query regarding the context.

60 (Currently amended): A data processing method, performed by a computer system, for processing media content comprised of a plurality of scenes, said method comprising:

inputting hierarchically arranged context description data that describes a plurality of scenes of the media contents of one or more media files, said context description data including:

a plurality of segment elements each for describing one of said plurality of scenes,

a plurality of section elements each having either one or more of said plurality of section elements as children, or having one or more of said plurality of segment elements as children,

a plurality of context attributes each having a value for describing a corresponding context of said media content and each being an attribute associated with one or more of said segment elements and including at least one keyword for describing the contents of the scenes described by the associated one or more of said segment elements, and

a plurality of importance attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said segment elements and having a value representing a degree of importance of the scene corresponding to said corresponding segment element in relation to one context attribute that is also associated with corresponding segment element;

selecting one or more of said segment elements based on an analysis of one or more of said context attributes and the associated importance attributes;

inputting said media content; and

outputting one or more of said plurality of scenes based on the selected segment elements.

61. (Previously presented): The method of claim 60, wherein said section elements are each associated with some corresponding portion of said media contents, and wherein said context description data further includes:

another plurality of context attributes each having a value for describing a corresponding context of said media content and each being an attribute associated with one or more of said section elements and including at least one keyword for describing the contents of the

corresponding portion described by the associated one or more of said section elements, and

another plurality of importance attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said section elements and having a value representing a degree of importance of the portion corresponding to said corresponding section element in relation to one of the another context attributes that is also associated with the corresponding section element.

62. (Previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein each segment element can be a child of only one section element, and wherein each section element can be a child of only one other section element, and further wherein when a child of any of said section elements includes a segment, that section element can only have additional segment elements as children.

63. (Previously presented): The method of claim 62, wherein a given section element describes that portion of the media contents that is described by the compilation of the children elements of said given section element.

II. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

Claims 37-45, 47-55, and 57-63 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's terminal disclaimers filed 09/15/2008 and 02/19/2009 have been approved.

Claims 60-63 were indicated allowable (see the Office Action mailed 12/19/2006).

Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record, as argued by Applicant in the Appeal Brief filed 12/19/2007.

As argued by Appellant (see Brief, pages 12-18), the prior art fails to disclose or suggest:

- "the context description data including: a plurality of importance attributes each associated with one of said segments and having a value representing a degree of contextual importance of said corresponding one of said segments; wherein said context description data further includes a plurality of time attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said segments for

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determining a start time and one of an end time or a duration of the scene associated with said corresponding segment” (as recited in independent Claims 37 and 47); and

- "the context description data including: a plurality of importance attributes each associated with one of said context attributes and also associated with one of said segment elements that are associated with said one of said context attributes, and having a value representing a degree of importance of the scene associated with said one of said segment elements in relation to the context of said context attribute, and a plurality of time attributes each associated with a corresponding one of said segments for determining a start time and one of an end time or a duration of the scene associated with said corresponding segment” (as recited in independent Claim 57).

The Examiner asserts that the claims overcome the prior art of record when the limitations are read in combination with the respective claimed limitations in their entirety.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

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Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

- III. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272- 4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maikhanh Nguyen/

Examiner, Art Unit 2176

/DOUG HUTTON/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2176